

FLORICULTURE



New York floriculture production ranked fifth in the nation for total commercial sales in 2005. Value of sales increased from a year earlier for bedding and garden plants and potted flowering plants. The overall value of commercial sales increased 10 percent to \$200 million. Bedding and garden plants continued to be the highest component of the total value of sales at \$111 million. Potted flowering plants were second with a value of sales of \$49.6 million, an increase of 23 percent. Propagative materials ranked third at \$11.5 million, an increase of 40 percent from 2004.

The number of commercial growers decreased for the third consecutive year. During 2005, there were 772 growers.

The open ground area used to produce floriculture crops in the state was down approximately 6 percent to 876 acres.

Greenhouse space for operators exceeding the \$10,000 sales level decreased 2 percent to total 25.0 million square feet in 2005. This decrease pushed the total covered area (*greenhouse plus shade and temporary structures*) down to 25.5 million square feet, 2 percent less than 2004.

Nationally, the total wholesale value of floriculture crops grown by operations exceeding the \$100,000 sales level reached \$5.08 billion in 2005, up 2 percent from the revised 2004 total. These operations, which comprise 42 percent of all growers, account for 95 percent of the total value of floriculture crops. Bedding and garden plants wholesale value, at \$2.61 billion, is the largest contributor to the value of production, up 2 percent from the previous year. Potted flowering plants value, at \$809 million, is up 1 percent from 2004. The foliage category is valued at \$721 million for 2005. This is up 5 percent from the revised 2004 estimate. Value of cut flowers, at \$397 million, is down 4 percent, while cut cultivated greens, at \$105 million, is up 2 percent from 2004.